

What is claimed is:

1 1. An access control system, comprising:
2 an electronic device adapted for operation using power from a power source, said
3 power source energizing a circuit of said electronic device for enabling a startup
4 procedure of said electronic device;
5 a switch, coupled between said power source and said processor, for enabling said
6 energizing of said circuit responsive to an assertion of an activation signal; and
7 a biometric reader coupled to said switch, comprising:
8 a memory for storing a biometric signature;
9 a biometric sensor, coupled to said memory, for discerning a biometric
10 profile; and
11 a verifier, coupled to said biometric sensor and to said memory, for
12 asserting said activation signal when said biometric profile matches said biometric
13 signature.

2. A method for controlling access to an electronic device,
comprising:
discerning a biometric profile of a prospective user of the electronic
device;

5 comparing said biometric profile to a stored biometric signature of an
authorized user of the electronic device; thereafter
asserting an activation signal to a switch when said prospective user is an
authorized user, said switch interposed between a power source of the electronic device
and a circuit of the electronic device for enabling a startup procedure of said electronic
10 device such that said switch interrupts power to said circuit when said activation signal is
not asserted.